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Week ending the 18th January 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

To.	Names of Newspapers.		Place of publication,	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	Bengali.		i		ons assine than M
				11	
	Monthly.		n	4 000	
L	"Bhárat Shramajíví"	•••	Baráhanagar	4,000	Saviend Tonto
3	"Rájsháhye Sambád"	•••	Rájsháhye	******	
3	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"		Comercolly	200	and the same of the same
	"Arya Pratibhá"		Bhavánípore		
,	"Suhrid"	•••	Calcutta		
	Bi-monthly.		Cálná		
3	"Cálná Prakásh" "Hindu Lalaná"	•••	Nawabgunge, Barrack-	******	
	"Hindu Lalana"	•••	pore.	•••••	
	"Sahayogi"		Bhavánípore, Calcutta		
	Weekly.	•••	Danvampore, Carcutta	•••••	i demonstrate in the
	"Banga Hitaishí"		Bhavánípore, Calcutta		
	"Bhárat Mihir"		Mymensingh	658	9th January 1879.
	"Bhárat Sanskárak"		Harinábhi		Von Canuary 10/9.
	"Bengal Advertiser"		Ditto		
	"Bishva Dút"		Táliganj, Calcutta		and the second s
	"Bardwán Pracháriká"		Bardwán	165	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	"Bardwán Sanjívaní"		Ditto		14th ditto
	"Dacca Prakásh"		Dacca	400	
	"Education Gazette"		Hooghly	1,168	10th ditto.
3	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"		Comercolly	200	11th ditto.
	"Hindu Hitaishini"		Dacca	300	12th ditto.
	"Hindu Ranjiká"		Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	8th ditto.
	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"		Berhampore		10th ditto.
1	"Pratikár"		Ditto	235	10th ditto.
1	"Rangpore Dik Prakásh"	*** ***	Kákiniá, Rangpore	250	
	"Sádháraní"		Chinsurah	516	12th ditto.
5	"Sahachara"		Calcutta		13th ditto.
3	"Sambád Bháskar"		Ditto		
7	"Sanjívaní"		Mymensingh		7th ditto.
3	"Sulabha Samáchár"	***	Calcutta	5,500	11th ditto.
)	"Soma Prakásh"	*** ***	Bhavánípore	700	13th ditto.
	Bi-weekly.				TOP A SAME AND ASSESSMENT
)	"Banga Mitra"	•••	Calcutta	4,000	e attachment y w
1	Tri-weekly.		0.		
	"Samáchára Sudhábarshana"	•••	Calcutta	******	
	Daily.				
3	"Sambád Prabhákar"		Calcutta	550	10th to 15th January 1879.
	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"		Ditto		9th to 14th ditto.
	"Samáchár Chandriká"		Ditto	625	7th to 13th ditto.
5	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"		Ditto		utilo.
3	"Arya Mihir"		Ditto		
	ENGLISH AND BENGAL			. The same of the same of	
	Weekly.				
	"Howrah Hitakari"		Bethar, Howrah	300	
3	"Murshidábád Patriká"		Rophomoro		10th Tonner 10to
)	"Barisál Vártábáha"		Raminal 1	300	10th January 1879.
			Darisat	500	Committee to the second
)	"Urdu Guide"		a same		
,		•••	Calcutta	400	11th ditto.
	URDU.				Control of the same
	Bi-monthly.		35		
•		•••	Mazufferpore	******	* DW 4 8 8 6 111
	HINDI.			- 2	
	Weekly.				
3	"Behar Bandhu"		Bankipore, Patna	509	15th ditto.
}	"Bhárat Mitra"		Calantta		Tool (IIIIO)
	PERSIAN.		Catonina	*****	
4	"Jám-Jahán-numá"		Ditto	250	10th ditto.
		William I was a second	•••	200	TOME . CITIES.

POLITICAL.

HINDU RANJIKA, January 8th, 1879.

It is clear now, remarks the Hindu Ranjika, that the war against the Amir is because he prevented the English, The Cabul war. who are afraid of Russia, from having access to his territory, with a view to discover the relations existing between Cábul and Russia. The English arms have so far encountered no opposition, and are making a victorious progress, being now not far off from Candahar. The flight of the Amir with his family seemed to him the better course instead of being made and kept as a prisoner owing to the discontent of his subjects. We wonder why the war still goes on if it be true, as reported, that Yákub Khan, whom the Amír has placed on the throne, is treating with the English? If dread of Russia be the moving cause, then the conquest of Cabul will rather increase than diminish that, because Russia will not keep quiet when this latter event does occur, bringing as it will the English so close to its possessions on the Oxus. Various and conflicting rumours are afloat as to the action Russia intends taking. The Golos and other Continental papers refer to the independence of Afghánistan being maintained as an object of Russian policy. If all this be true, there will be an immediate collision between England and Russia, and the conflict, which was 20 or 30 years distant, will, by the present Cábul war, be precipitated. It behoves England in its present favourable condition as to the war, and with Yákub Khan and the Chiefs and Sirdars submitting, to close the war, which if persevered in will assuredly bring the two rival Powers into contact sooner or later. Let a treaty of peace be concluded, and England in its own interest remain as far off as possible from Russia.

PRABHAKARA, January 10th, 1879. 2. After giving an account of the Jellalabad darbar to its readers, the Sangbad Prabhakara remarks that people would naturally infer from the proceedings on

would naturally infer from the proceedings on the occasion, that all the Afgháns would, like the assembled Khans, seek to live under the tranquil administration of the English. We, however, cannot so easily bring ourselves to believe this. We have before this stated that Lord Beaconsfield has sacrificed our money for the rectification of the frontier; the Afgháns too will not easily be resigned to this. If England now even conquers the whole of Afghánistan, she will have to endure much anxiety in the administration of the kingdom. Political affairs, too, instead of being calmed down, will also daily increase in perplexity.

PRATIKARA, January 10th, 1879. 3. The Pratikára draws the four following pictures of political events.

Picture No. 1 shows how Russia went to war with Turkey on the plea of rescuing the oppressed Christians from the intolerable and

inhuman yoke of the Muhammadans and came out of it by obtaining occupation of some strong Danubian forts, a large indemnity of money, and the possession of Batoum, Kars, Ardahan, &c. Again, the Amir of Cábul, enchanted by the words of Kauffman, forsook the English and is paying the penalty of his folly in relying on Russian promises. Vanity Fair goes so far as to declare that a secret treaty has been entered into between Russia and England, whereby the former takes Merv and Kashgar, and the latter extends its Indian frontier to Herat, the Oxus, and Pamir. Russia is indeed a wonderful Power, its friendship and goodness are alike wonderful, also its love of truth and virtue and religion are likewise surpassing strange. Picture No. 2 represents Bismarck at the head of Germany endeavouring to effect German unity by consolidating the empire and joining the Federal States together at all risk and expense. Hence came the war with Austria, weakened by its comprising in its population three different nationalities—Hungarians, Germans, and Slavs. Next came the

war with France, when the Emperor William in his proclamation stated : "We wage this war, not against the French people, but against the Corsican dynasty." If there had been the least tinge of truth in this declaration, how comes it that after the fall and surrender of Napoleon Paris was besieged, a large money indemnity taken, and Aleace and Lorraine taken possession of? Germany ought not, after the Sedan affair, to have advanced her territory. Picture No. 3 draws attention to England, which might have prevented the Franco-German war by her intervention when Austria and Italy would have joined her. Had German aggression been then stopped, there would have been no Turkish or Afghán wars. England and other nations are now reaping the fruits of forsaking friends in distress. England too with specious promises urged on the Sultan to fight with Russia, entered subsequently into a secret treaty with Russia and took Cyprus, accepted the responsibility of directing the affairs of Asia Minor and thus showed its magnanimity. Next, England has brought on the Afghán war on untenable grounds and taken the oppotunity of asserting its strength over the weak. This proves the general rule that the more powerful State must gradually absorb the neighbouring weaker kingdoms. With so strong and active a power as Russia advancing on the one side and England on the other, Cábul must lose its independence. Picture No. 4 goes into Afghán affairs and represents the Amir on one side deluded into friendship with Russia, whilst England is holding out specious promises of advancement on the other. The Amir knew well that English advancement and improvement meant annexation, as has happened in Australia also to the American Indians, to the Lucknow Royal Family, and to the Murshidábád Nabobs. Herein then is the fault of the Amír, for which his country is about to be taken from him. It makes our head swing and our pen quiver to think what we should say on such matters.

4. The Bhárat Mihir traces the following resemblance between England and Russia in the Cábul and Turk
Russia in the Cábul and Turkish wars.

England and Russia in the Cábul and Turkish wars.

England showed great friendship towards Turkey at first in its war with

Russia, so much so that the former depended wholly on Britain, and entered into war against Russia, when England placed a veil over its friendship. Turkey was defeated and a large part of it fell to Russia. England will only offer obstacles when its own interests are assailed in any quarter. Had Turkey not so implicitly relied on England, she would not have dared to treat Russia's appeal with contumely, but would have submitted. Turkey acquired as if it were double strength by the stimulus of England. Russia said nothing to the latter, but brought forth all its strength to the work before it. Turn now to Russia's part in the Afghan affair. She sent a friendly mission to the Amir knowing full well the amicable relation he was holding with England; a sword was presented to him, and he, without looking to the future, got entrapped. All England at once became alarmed at the appearance of Russia's shadow in Cábul, prepared for war, not to destroy Russian pride and flippancy, because Russia was strong, but preferred to smash up the feeble Amir to powder and keep the former on its guard as to its ventures. Treacherous Russia deserted the Amir in his distress, and the English arms are now carrying everything before them in his country. Proposals are being put forward for annexing Afghanistan in whole or in part. Russia, who is now looking at a safe distance, has brought all this disaster on the Amir, and will eventually come in and take a share in the spoil. The Indian Government have been hitherto thinking that there might be some natives of India who wished for Russian rule. Are the people of India so stupid as to accept slavery at the hands of so treacherous a Power?

BRARAT MIRIR, January 10th, 1879.

Why did Russia, contrary to the promise of its own Ambassador, break its pledge with the English in meddling with Afghán affairs by sending a mission to Cábul? Who is the guilty party? England is swallowing up the Amír's kingdom for the fault and through fear of Russia. The English Government had no stipulation with the Amír as to his not receiving the Envoy of any sovereign. On the whole, then, the English did not go to war with Russia, the real offender; but the justice and wisdom of the nineteenth century, with both its arms outstretched prefers to oppress the poor and weak.

URDU GUIDE, January 11th, 1879. 5. The Urdu Guide remarks that the dissatisfaction of the Cábulis with the Amir for his oppression was quite enough to make their ruler unpopular, and to make them anxious for the opportunity when a war

might be brought about with the British Government, so that they might have a chance of again breathing freely and living in the unrestrained enjoyment of their lives and property. Had the Amir's unfriendliness towards our Indian Government been the only cause of the war, his subjects would assuredly have fought for him. The Amir, however, chose to disregard the friendly counsel and aid of the English, till at last they have been driven to war with him, and he has had ultimately to flee, as his was a bad cause, and he had not the power or means to fight. It appears to us, after looking at all the circumstances, that this war has been caused through the ignorance or folly of the Afgháns, who are a treacherous, tyrannical, and halfsavage race, fond of rapine and plunder. They have neither patience, perseverance, nor any regular system to guide them, and are averse to all subjection in political, social, or administrative matters. As to the last letter sent by the Amir to the Viceroy, any man of learning and common sense will acknowledge that it was meaningless. This in itself would serve to show that the kingdom, which is unable to produce a competent writer of political letters, cannot be a well administered one. The Amir's folly shows also that Muhammadan rule is on the decline, of which it has not yet reached the lowest point.

Samachaba Chandbika, January 11th, 1879. 6. The Samáchara Chandriká says that Lord Northbrook was always, during his administration here, averse to engaging in a second war with Cábul; but Lord Lytton was anxious to steer a directly

opposite course to that of Lord Northbrook and his other predecessors, Lords Lawrence and Mayo. Our present Viceroy wishes to leave behind him his own imperishable renown by doing some act or acts which may shed lustre on his name in the pages of history. In a very short time Lord Lytton has managed to effect his purpose, and to do that which his predecessors failed to do, viz. the taking away the independence of the Native Press, and to embroil the nation in a second Cábul war, which Lord Northbrook has already termed unjust.

SADWABANI, January 12th, 1879.

7. The Sádhárani, looking at the recent events of the war and a few successes of the British troops does not think that any material benefit has been gained. Snow has not yet fallen in Afghánistán, yet our officials are in anxiety about the troops. Jellalabád, occupied as it has been by General Samuel Browne's column, will not do to spend the winter in, especially with a deficient supply of warm clothing. The inhabitants of the place are not to be trusted, and can only be brought to order by fear or money. Raids, thefts, and cutting of telegraph wires are constantly occurring. The affair at Dhaka and its vicinity and at Bazar have been misrepresented by the Government officials, for they report that the contest proved of much

There are various and conflicting reports about the Mir Akhor, one that he has been poisoned by one of his attendants, and the other, which we cannot bring ourselves to believe, that a price has been set upon his head by our Government. Various too are the rumours about the attitude of Yakub Khan towards the English Government. As to General Roberts, his successes at Peiwar Kotál were Providential, as the affair was mismanaged at first. The people there are obliged to be bribed to cease from their marauding habits. The Pathans in the British army have been deserting and show a disinclination to fight with their countrymen. The English have now been undeceived in this respect. The Commissariat arrangements with the Cándáhar column are bad, otherwise we should ere this have received tidings of the capture of that place. There is a talk of troops coming from Herat to support and defend Cándáhar. The Patháns in the British ranks continue deserting, and are reported to be joining Afzal Khan's army. Be all this as it may, the English will have to be very anxious about their troops in winter.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

8. The Sanjivani notices the great apathy of the Rajás, zamindars, and wealthy men of the Mymensingh district The apathy of the great body of zamindars and wealthy men in Mymensingh and how this may be removed. towards doing anything good for the lower orders of their countrymen. The manner in which education is imparted by Government to the sons of zamindars leaves us no room for hope for these men when they grow up. The present way too in which titles are given fails to secure that result which Government seek, that is to induce the moneyed class to undertake works of real public utility. This object would be gained by Government, if previous to honoring the great men amongst the natives with titles and honors, they paid attention not only to the number of charitable bequests, but caused strict inquiries to be made as to the good done for tenants on their lands, the aid rendered in supplying food at cheap prices in times of scarcity, the construction of roads and ghats, the efforts made to improve the holdings and lands of their tenants and dependants. By rewarding the doers of such acts with titles and honors, Government would incite the zamindars to good works and the land would prosper.

9. The Sanjivani notices the high-handed proceedings of a Sub-High-handed proceedings of a Sub- Deputy Collector Babu Durgamohan Ghosh, Deputy Collector. who directed his nazir to seize and attach the palanquin and silver umbrella of Babu Mahima Chandra Ráyá Chaudhuri, zamindar of Attárabári, for Rs. 10 or 12, arrears of the road cess. A peon who was delegated for the duty, seized and was bringing away the silver umbrella of the zamindar whilst he was returning from the collectorate, where he had gone on business. The mukhteár of the zamındar, however, in the interim offered to pay the demand, whereupon the peon returned the umbrella and reported the circumstance to the Sub-Deputy, who at once flew into a rage, ordered the peon to be suspended for disobedience of orders, and directed the silver umbrella to be brought back into court, which was accordingly done. The mukhteár, however, paid the money and took away the article. On this the Editor remarks, we are in the habit of reproaching the sáhibs, but we for our part would prefer for ever remaining subordinate to an Englishman, when we come to think of the deplorable state of Bengalis when vested with a little authority.

10. The Bhárat Mihir remarks that ere the Civil Procedure Code has had time to come into full operation and its working tested, it has been found necessary to

Sanjivani, January 7th, 1879.

SANJIVANI.

BHARAT MIHIR, January 10th, 1879. amend some of its provisions, and it hopes the Legislative Council will take care to rectify all errors therein. The writer regrets to find that the public are much inconvenienced, because in some very necessary cases there is no appeal. Time and space will not permit of going extensively into all the parts of the Code that require amendment.

SAMACHAE CHANDRIKA, January 9th, 1879.

Dacoities.

The Samáchára Chandriká remarks that, although as a matter of constant occurrence, dacoities are not now heard of under the British administration, yet at

intervals they come to the fore. There have been ten or twelve such within the last two or three months in *Hooghly*, some of which have been inquired into by the police and the rest allowed to pass without notice. This is a very bad state of things, with all the strigent rules for the police force. The writer gives detailed accounts of the dacoities.

SAMACHARA CHANDRIKA, January 10th, 1879. 12. It appears from the fact of the Lieutenant-Governor having Babu Umeshchandra Dattá's appoint- approved of Babu Umeshchandrá Dattá's appointment as Collector, remarks the Samá-chará Chandriká, that Mr. Eden has not lost confidence on him. The

reason is that both are of the same religion.

Samachara Chandrika, January 11th, 1879. 13. It is alleged, remarks the Samáchára Chandriká that there is no oppression in our jails. The recent emeute, attended with loss of life in the Mudras jail,

on account of a change in the prisoners' diet, goes to prove the contrary. Our readers will now best be able to conclude for themselves whether any such oppression exists or not in the jail. We at least hear at intervals of tyrannical acts. We wish to know what has become of the Jail Conference.

Will not jail oppression be put an end to?

BHARAT MIHIR, January 10th, 1879.

14. The Bhárat Mihir feels backward and abashed in having to The delay in the construction of the write over and over again about the Mymen-Mymensingh railway. singh railway. We cannot say whether Mr. Eden has forgotten all about the bad condition of this district. At all events he is a working and not a loud-sounding Governor of display, and does not easily forget the distress of which he has once been convinced. It is improbable that Government will deceive the people whose very life-blood it has sucked on the plea of constructing railways to do away with future We have, however, become impatient on hearing nothing said in connection with the Mymensingh railway, so that it is incumbent on the Hon'ble Mr. Eden to break silence in the matter. Government has pledged itself to devote the proceeds of the license tax to the principal and most needed railways at first. Should the people see Lord Lytton but breaking his own promise, they would never trust Government again. Will Lord Lytton's Government set any such contemptible example before society here?

BHABAT MIHIB.

Bengal, would draw Mr. Eden's attention to two points: first, the excessive expenditure in the road cess offices; and second, waste of road cess funds. The writer wishes to know what is the use of all this prodigality in office establishments and paying District Engineers such high salaries out of the road cess funds for looking after ordinary work? The road cess is for the public good, but we fail to see any improvement in the mafussal during the five years of its introduction. We may admit the construction of many high-ways and roads and their benefits; but the villages in the interior are not in anywise benefited nor their difficulty removed. These villagers cannot bring their goods to markets by roads; the peasants wade as usual to their ploughing work through paddy fields, yet these very village people or cultivators pay the cesses which tax all their vital powers. We are

fortunate that Mr. Eden's attention has been drawn to the matter. It will not do, however, for him to make mere mention thereof in the Annual Report. He is a man of work, and we hope that he will act in the matter.

16. Writing of the immense depreciation of silver and the heavy loss sustained by the Secretary of State's bills Agold currency: increase of expor- for Home charges, the Murshidábád Patriká

tation and distress of the people. says that the merchants who import English goods here, instead of making home remittances in silver, prefer buying rice in the Indian market and exporting it to Britain, whereby they not only do not suffer a loss, but also reap a profit by such a system of exchange. This has led to a very large increase in exportation and is the chief cause of the high prices at present ruling here, as is well shown by the Statesman. Many and various are the suggestions made to raise the value of silver currency to its proper standard. One amongst these is to abolish a silver currency and substitute a gold one in its stead. Such a plan would at once deprive the country of silver coin, to the great inconvenience and loss of both the Government and its subjects. Government should not, in the present distressed state of the country, remain passive in this most important matter, but rouse itself up to action. We believe the Government officials have not brought before Government the serious state of this matter. The Indian Association should take up the subject and agitate it. The want of such agitation hitherto is plunging the land into distress, and the middle classes are being brought into the vortex. God only knows the future and how long such a state of things will continue. We are trying only to become civilized and enlightened, but make no efforts to free ourselves from the present heavy taxation. We know not what evil may come of our inactivity and supineness.

17. Government, remarks the Murshidábád Patriká in not believing or attending to the cries of distress from all sides, seems to look upon the natives as even sides, seems to look upon the natives as even

inferior to beasts. The Commissioners or Magistrates ask their peons about the matter, who, in order to please their masters, assert that all these wailings about scarcity of food are a lie. A report is made to Government accordingly. This misrepresentation of the real state of affairs led to the dire calamities during the Orissa and Mysore famine. Grain and all kinds of edibles are at high prices in Bengal, and the mahajans take care to make money by buying up the standing crops in the fields. Government takes no notice of all this. It once said that the place where rice sells at Rs. 4 a maund must be considered in a state of famine, but it is delighted to see people still existing where rice is selling at Rs. 5 a maund. This state of feeling on the part of Government renders us speechless, so that we feel no inclination to make known our distress. Added to all this comes the heavy blow of the license tax.

18. The Grámvártá Prakashiká thinks it useless for the native associations to petition the Secretary of State for India, who only very recently rejected the

prayer of the Indian Association to raise the ages of candidates for the Civil Service. The best plan would be to send a few well-educated natives to England to agitate Indian questions in person there, by going, if needed, from door to door and representing the grievances of the natives to the good and sympathsing portion of the English public. Branch associations could be found throughout the country who, by collecting subscriptions, could manage to pay the expenses of the native deputies.

MURSHIDABAD PATRIKA, January 10th, 1879.

MURSHIDABAD PATBIKA.

GRAMVARTA PRAKASHIKA, January 11th, 1879. GRAMVARTA PRAKASHIKA, January 11th, 1879.

19. As epidemic diseases have spread and entered countries even Has famine become an epidemic beyond the seas, when carried there by voyagers or travellers, so it seems famine too complaint in India P partakes of this nature and has become an epidemic. In olden times no such succession of famines was to be seen. Eighty or even ninety years elapsed between any two such visitations. It may be safely said that with the Orissa dire scarcity famine has now become an epidemic, and even reached Europe as the cholera did from Jessore. Free trade has exceeded its bounds, and the monopoly created by it, with its attendant avarice, may be set down as the real cause of famine. With the ease and comfort accompanying free trade, we have also scarcity of food as one result. This scarcity has now become so great that people are unmindful of religious practices. The luxuries of this civilized nineteenth century are to be seen predominating everywhere, whilst the poor are enveloped in the direst distress. The prophecy of our ancient panditas is coming to pass, inasmuch as the present civilization has gone beyond proper bounds and has become devoid of religion. The English papers give a vivid description of the utter destitution amongst the lower and poor classes there. Every one knows what the poor of India too have been and are still suffering on account of these constantly recurring famines. We would nevertheless advise our rich and benevolent native gentlemen to send assistance to England, which so nobly and handsomely subscribed for the famine-stricken here. Let half our food even be given and the ancestral fame of our religion preserved thereby. 20. In writing of the various efforts made, and means employed to

BHARAT MIHIR, January 10, 1879.

advance and improve this country the Bharat How this country is to be improved. Mihir says that service and keranidom will not do it, neither will the different associations established for various purposes effect it, though they may benefit the people. The opening out of schools, hospitals, &c., are good and righteous acts, beneficial to the people, but not improving the land, which should have at least a small portion of direct attention, and not left out of sight altogether. This land of gold has after 1,000 years of stormy tempests become piled with dust. The Aryans and their fruitful land have passed away, and strangers are enthroned over their sepulchres. Famine strides over the land, and one new tax follows another under the able British administration. People are in straits to provide food or clothes for themselves. The remedy is not in our hands. Government acts as it chooses. The shrieks of a hundred newspapers cannot do away with a tax. Be all this as it may, we at least have it in our power to improve the soil and the condition of the peasants. There is no such blind a race on earth as ourselves. We have not the courage to strike out for ourselves into deep water, but wish to be led out in all, but in some matters like to follow example. We adopted Musalman habits and manners under the Mogul rule, and have done the same under the English. We do not blame our countrymen for this, but we reproach them for not imitating the Englishman in some of his many noble qualities, such as energy, bravery, single-mindedness, and his various schemes for amassing wealth. Look again at the excellencies of English agriculture and the impetus given to trade in that light little sea-girt island; because agriculture is there made a chief object of education Although India is the foremost agricultural country, yet Government take. no sufficient interest in improving its agriculture. For our part, we natives can find time to make long discourses as to unity and deliverence, but we have no leisure to busy ourselves about improving the soil and the condition of the peasant and our native oxen, or our agricultural implements which have remained in statu quo for ages. The zamindar thinks all his work consists in getting in his rents only. Our natives have begun to consider the vast importance of trade, but not as yet of agricultural improvement and education. Babu Srináth Datta has returned from England after receiving a firstrate agricultural training, but no zamindar has as yet come forward to avail himself of the Babu's skill or talents. East Bengal, famed for its fertility of soil, looks up to Nabob Abdul Ghani, c.s.I., its chief, with hope. We are glad, too, to hear of the prosperity of Bhawal under the management of its chief superintendent Babu Kali Prasanna Ghosh; the tenants are thriving and the income of the estate has increased by twenty or twenty-five thousand rupees. Kali Prasanna Babu has by his management tended to eradicate i the prevalent error as to educated natives not being expert in zamindari business. We beg of him and his co-adjutor to continue in their good work and make Bhawal a model zamindari by instructing the peasants in the new system of agriculture and the use of modern implements of European manufacture. Bhawal is an exceedingly fertile zamindari, into which we much desire to see the European system of agriculture introduced and firmly planted.

Writing of the proposal to consolidate the Stamp Act, XVIII of 1869, and the Court Fees Act, VII of 1870, The amended Stamp Act. the Bhárat Mihir says that it has been fortunate that the Select Committee have omitted the latter. God alone knows why any change has been made. There could have been no other object than to get an increase of income. Fines have been made more severe, and great skill has been exhibited in providing penalties for insufficiently stamped documents. No doubt this is a step in the right direction as to the Stamp Law administration. It must at the same time be borne in mind that many people do not actually intend to commit a fraud; their sin lies in their ignorance. We were afraid and objected to the stamp duties being increased in some certain matters only and not as a whole. We. however, bless the Select Committee, in the name of the country for all the modifications made by them in respect of receipts, bills of exchange at sight, and promissory notes. We are also glad to see that the same Committee have, notwithstanding Mr. Cockerell's proposal to increase it to four annas, allowed two annas to remain as the proper stamp value on bonds and deeds up to Rs. 25. The poor will now not be the sufferers. It is strange indeed that all the new laws being framed by Government day after day press heavily on the poor. We entreat Mahárájá Jotendramohan Tagore to support the views of the Select Committee. The new alphabetical arrangement of the contents of the whole of the old schedules may not be inconvenient for the educated and men up in law, but to the illiterate and most of the rural sub-registrars it will be a puzzle. For instance, in No. 25 of schedule 1, we cannot exactly say to whom the words "enrolment of vakil" refers. We are inclined to think that pleaders of the High Court, Appellate side, are not intended; for if vakils are to pay a fee of Rs. 500 on enrolment, very few will be found seeking it in the High Court. We escaped for a time from Mr. Buckland's circular as to the fees to be paid for general powers of attorney, the future of which, however, by this Bill is yet not all cleared away, for section 50, though imposing a stamp of Rs. 5 instead of the former one of Rs. 8, much to our joy at first, afterwards terrified us with the proviso that a general power of attorney must be in favour of one person only. Mahárájá Jotendramohan Tagore made a very good objection to this in Council. We trust our Legislative Council will not place the people in straits for the sake of a small increase in income.

BHARAT MINIS, January 10th, 1879. GRANVARTA PRAKASHIKA, January 11th, 1879. The Rent Bill.

Legislative Council, the Gramvarta Praka-

shiká remarks that, though the intentions of the Government for the good of the people are to be applauded, yet it behoves the ruling power to look with equal eyes on all classes of its subjects. Let the state of the country be first well observed, and then let the present Bill be passed into law. From what comes under our observation, we see that the middle classes are left out entirely in the cold. We trust their interests will likewise be taken into consideration.

SADEABANI, January 12th, 1879.

23. The Sádháraní publishes the following communicated article on village panchayets. The writer, referring to the

desire of Government to go back to the system of village councils, would dissuade it from the purpose, because the results will not be good and satisfactory for the following reasons. There are few educated people in villages; those, such as the mandals, who would sit in the panchayet are men dependent on others, and it is only by chance a good educated set of men can be found in any village to make up such an assembly. The panchayets have been productive of much evil; the poor people already oppressed by the zamindar and chowkeedar have been heavily taxed and tyrannized over. Wherever there is a village having a panchayet, that body overrides the police, for without its approval no disturbance, row, or any such thing can be reported. No justice is to be had from these men, who are most of them useless and have a curious itching of the palms (prone to bribery). If again a person has any complaint against a relative or connection of any member of the panchaget, he may expect justice in vain; nay rather may stand a chance of getting the punishment of the defendant. The stronger and wealthier party in a village is at liberty to do what he likes without the panchayet daring to interfere or criminate him. This is the case when a powerful zamindar is a party, who can defy all such lawful authority and evade payment as we know of even the chowkeedaree tax. Again, a member of a panchaget may be guilty of a fault, commit a crime, and there is no one bold enough to report it to the police. The poor are oppressed and the panchayets will not interfere on their behalf. We will give an instance in which the poor have to pay heavier chowkeedaree taxes than they ought. A zamindar refuses to pay this tax, and the panchaget dare not compel him, nor will they overtax themselves or their relatives to meet the deficiency; the poor of the village become the scapegoats and have thus to pay more than is due by them in order to make up the zamindar's amount. Let the records and accounts of the panchayets be examined, and all this will come to light. We would much wish Mr. Monro, the energetic head of the Mafussal police, to verify our statement.

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Winter tours of inspection by dis. in the plains are obliged to have recourse to ice, cooling tatties, and punkahs, the district officers betake themselves to their winter tours to distribute from door to door that justice for which the English are so famed, but which the majority decline to have at the high price it costs. Doubtless this discomfort and trouble, which the official undertakes, produce some good, though much evil accompanies also. Picture then the ecstacies into which the people are thrown at tidings of the advent of the great man, who shortly after pitches his tent in a spot selected far away from market places and bustle, and more for the convenience of sporting purposes than otherwise. Now commence the depredations by his camp-followers, unknown to, though

done in the name of, the august master. If the spot be not good for chiker. the tent of the Magistrate is shifted, and those who had presented petitions to him are obliged to follow him on his peregrinations to their great loss and inconvenience during the inclemency of winter. The Magistrate, however, has his warm clothing, warm tent, good food, and brandy bottle to stave off the cold. If the poor man wants justice he must follow the Magistrate about just as his wife's spaniel does. Perhaps one day the witnesses are called up, the deposition of one or two taken, and the camp again removed some 20 miles off. Suitors and witnesses must follow or be brought up for contempt of court. Summary and speedy justice, however, are obtained in a case when once taken up, as there is no bother of pleaders. Such then is the way in which justice is meted out. These tours are fraught with another evil. Provisions supplied to the camp of the Magistrate are never paid for. The servants manage this quite unknown to him, and as they have to accompany their master on these tours without extra remuneration, they pocket the money. With the Magistrate's stay in any place on a tour commence oppressions on rich and poor alike. With all this, however, these tours benefit the oppressed poor, who, but for these periodical visitations, would have to endure their hard lot for ever. Cannot the attendant evils of these tours be done away with by restricting the ill-practices of the official's servants, and by pitching the camp in some spot convenient to people? Ordinary and simple cases should only be taken up during these visits of inspection. The Magistrate might not lose his sport, and at the same time the people would be pleased and satisfied with the despatch of work.

The Hindu Hitaishini commences the present article by remark- HINDU HITAISHINI,

Why are Europeans opposed to native ing that self-interest, when accompanied by January 12th, 1879. virtue and justice, is not pernicious, though it is productive of much evil when it seeks to obtain profit and supremacy by unjust means. England at present far surpasses India in power, education, learning, and wealth, and has therefore, by virtue of these, a preferential right in all matters of self-interest, with which India cannot compete. England is the wealthiest nation of Europe, and it surprises one to see its greed for money. Her supremacy is the result of trade, manufactures, and arts, and any attempt of India to vie with her becomes futile. India, for instance. can produce salt enough for its own consumption, and the poor people could find a better living by salt manufacture than by being employed in excavating canals and erecting buildings, but Government has for a long time monopolized the trade from which it derives a profit. Thereafter, when Liverpool salt began to be imported, and Government saw that by imposing a duty on this much trouble would be saved, it at once stopped the manufacture of salt. Thus it is that the wealth of this country is being carried away by foreign merchants. Government again has established native licensed out-distilleries, notwithstanding the importation of foreign spirits, which are preferred. Now, liquor is not so necessary an article of consumption as salt. Why then did not Government carry out the same plan of licensing and imposing a duty on the native manufacture of salt, which would thus have been made a source of livelihood for many? A greater profit would also have resulted then from the Liverpool salt. Chittagong, Noakholly, Bákerganj, and Midnapore would have but too gladly taken up the manufacture, where many poor families and children make their own salt for domestic purposes by a simple process. Yet Government treats this as theft and imposes a heavy fine. It is a great pity that manufacture of liquor is allowed and not that of salt. We do not at all mean to say that the salt duty is unjust. The prohibition, however, of native manufacture of this article is with a view to secure the interest of the foreign traders who have thus deprived us of our trade. The former

are powerful and get every aid; we are weak and unassisted, and they are therefore successful in their projects, whilst we have to serve them. Is it not surprising to see them still dissatisfied though possessing such superior advantages?

SAMACHARA, January 18th, 1879.

26. If, says the Shahachara, the new Rent Bill, which has been made up by the churning of Regulations V and VII. The Rent Bill or law for slavery. passes into law, the peasants will be reduced The Bill has not only been drawn up so as to the state of Russian serfs. to facilitate matters for the zamindar, but at the same time it attacks the interests of the tenants. Section 11 of the present Bill, which has been substituted for section 6 of the older one, gives an occupancy right to the tenant when he has been in possession for 12 years and cultivated the land with his own hands or by hired labourers. The onus of proof of such mode of cultivation is thrown on the peasant. Whence is this to be forthcoming? Thus he will have no prospect of obtaining such a right. Again, though it is desirable to have no intermediate tenure, section 14 creates one by recognizing, under cetain conditions, the occupancy right of a sub-tenant, when the ryot, who sublets, loses his right. This intermediate tenure cannot be got rid of till the present zamindari system is put an end to. The zamindars, however, are conducing to this end by dividing their lands into ganti holdings. The framers of Act X, in proposing an occupancy right for the tenant, had broad views as to the land being improved when the peasant had an interest in it. By the present Bill, though the transfer of these rights is made convenient for the tenant, this right too will never be one possessing much value. In the course of 20 years, the zamindars will, by the gradual purchase of these occupancy rights, reduce the peasants again to the original position of slaves. Again look at the stones and obstacles placed in the way of the tenant, who cannot sublet without permission of the samindar, thus doing away with intermediate tenures; though it is the zamindar who first created patnis, dar-patnis, and gantis, &c. Further, the zamindars will have a wider door for oppression now left open to them, for we all know how much more expensive and tedious it is to have names struck out of the zamindar's books than in Government khas mehal cases which itself is bad enough. The Bill admits that it is difficult to get rid of intermediate tenures. Why then increase the difficulties of the ryot? What injury will it be to the zamindar if there are sub-holdings? The ryot, who holds an intermediate tenure, cannot be ejected, but the rent may be increased in no case less than 10 per cent. as Mr. Mackenzie proposes. We see no necessity for making a limit. The registration of transfers, &c., set out in section 17, instead of being effected in the zamindar's office, should be carried out by the Collector or Government Registry Office, and the time The changes in the amlahs of the allowed should be three months. zamindar and their want of veracity would prove great obstacles to the Section 18 directing the registry of occupancy rights within one year should be struck out. Mr. Eden's Government must well know what trouble, bother, expense, and even bribery Act VII of 1876 has engendered. If such be the case in Government offices, how much greater will it not be in the zamindari cutcherries, where the tenants' right of occupancy may be denied. Who then will decide the question? Some Government official should then deal with such matters of registration. We truly affirm that this Bill, if it is passed into law, will ruin the tenant and benefit the zamindar. The details of matters in the present Bill are indiscriminately scattered about, and have not been well arranged; for instance, in the chapter on occupancy rights we see execution of decrees treated of. In the Bill instalments of rent are made payable in Sraban, Kartic, Magh, and Baisakh.

We would take occasion to mention that the instalments of rent be made payable in the months of Bhadra, Agraháyana, and Chaitra as the most convenient for the ryots, when they harvest their aus, aman, and rabi crops. This of itself shows that our officials are legislating quite in the dark and in ignorance of the state of the country. The zamindars will worry their ryots if they be but allowed to bring suits against them in the month of Shraban. We are deadly opposed to the stringent arrangement as to interest on instalments due. The zamindars may make such a proposal, but it should not emanate from the Legislature. Section 3, as to the summary procedure for realization of arrears of rent, gives countenance to injustice and oppression. For the tenant will be ruined when the suit is based on the rates appearing in the jama-wasil-baki records of the zamindar, of the genuineness of which we are all aware. Again, if the tenant has a defence, is not the court bound to grant him time if he requires it? Where then is the saving of time? If this part of the Bill remains unaltered, the zamindars will have ample time to concoct spurious records. As to the tenant finding a security before decree under the terms of section 4, Mr. Eden, who has been a Magistrate, well knows the difficulty in such a case, for a poor ryot who actually owes Rs. 10, but is sued for Rs. 300. He will have to pay at least Rs. 30 to a person to stand his security; otherwise the suit will be decreed against him. Can there be greater hardship and injustice on the poor ryot? Let this portion of the Bill be at once expunged, otherwise the ryot will be ruined. Section 28 treats as to the proof of service of summons by a village chowkeedar or a member of a panchayet. Mr. J. O'Kinealy, who is in the Council, can well speak as to the way in which summons or notices can be hid and said to be served. That gentleman not six months ago dealt with a case in which he sentenced a respectable member of a panchayet, two chowkeedars or a mandal for conspiracy. We well know whose servant the chowkeedar is? The members of panchayets are of the same temperament. The framers of Act VIII of 1819 were men of discretion, and put the onus of service on the zamindar. Mr. Mackenzie has made it a duty of the court trying the suit. Again, should the ryot win and the zamindar return the amount of the decree into court (we know how troublesome and difficult it is to get money in any shape out of court), the poor peasant is put to great difficulty to recover the money. Is it not better then to stay execution till the appeal is decided? We now take a leap to section 30, which provides that the standing crops of an undertenant may be distrained for arrears due by the original holder. We wish to ask here whether Government puts up to auction a paini for the arrears due by a zamindar? Sir Ashley Eden has fallen into the snares of the landholders. The Bill is called one for realization of arrears of rent, but is in fact an attempt to worry the tenants, make him a slave, and deprive him of his occupancy right. Hear what Babu Joy Krishna Mookerji said, who had purchased an intermediate zamindari tenure in the sub-division of Diamond Harbour, brought several suits against his tenants for arrears of monthly instalments of two and four annas rents, and had been defeated. He said that by losing he would win, that is, though he lost the cases he instituted, he would ruin his tenants by instituting new cases. The provisions as to security, registration in the zamindari sherishta, &c.; all these are different methods of harassing the ryots. We warn Sir Ashley's Government against wilfully ruining the ryots. He has been thrown into error by representations as to ryots having in some places banded together and refused to pay their rents. Let him inquire and he will discover that these riots were founded on demands for enhancement of rent. We have now a band of men who have purchased land and become zamindars, who will do nothing for the

improvement of the country or soil, but will take away the money of their tenants. They have not answered a single expectation of Lord Cornwallis. If the Rent Law is to be amended, let a claim for the enhancement of rents depend for its success on the good which the zamindar can show he has done for the soil and its improvement. Where is the Indian Association? time for action has come.

BAHACHARA January 13th, 1879.

27. An anonymous correspondent of the Sahachara submits the following observations on the panchaget The panchayet system and village roads, and the license tax assessments system. We admit the benefit of the village panchayet system which Government has on Shahazadpur. introduced with a view to preserve peace and order, but the selection of its members should be a matter of some consideration. This selection, however, should not be entrusted to the mafussal police, who are for the most part an uneducated and worthless lot, with all the improvement effected in that body. In the next place, the panchayets consist of mostly uneducated men, so that no good to the country can be expected from them. We villagers are greatly in want of roads and pay the road cess; but see none constructed. We recently heard of two roads being in contemplation, one from Basantapur to Shahazadpur and thence another branching in two directions, one to Payna and the other to Seragunge; but beyond taking up the land of the ryots and digging a little, nothing else has been done. Money has only been wasted. The license tax assessors, who are Government servants, are doing as they like in the villages, and the poor are the sufferers. Persons who ought to be excluded have been assessed; fuller particulars will be given in the next letter. Rice and paddy are still selling here at high rates, viz. at 11 and 12 seers for the rupee. The rabi crop is not a good one. Rain is required at intervals. The Som Prakásha, referring to the introduction of the Rent Bill

SOM PRAKASHA, January 13th, 1879. 28.

into the Bengal Legislative Council, says that The Rent Bill. if Sir A. Eden can but have it completed and thoroughly carried out, he will ever be gratefully remembered by the people of this province, and his name will be written in the history of 1879 in letters of gold. Mr. Eden has spent much time in Bengal, mixed in all classes of native society, is fond both of the zamindars and tenants, and is a liberalminded man, so that all parties will be benefited by any legislation emanating from him. We do not mean at all to say that the Rent Bill in its present form will be productive of good to all, for, if passed into law as it now stands, there is a fear that both landlords and tenants will suffer. The Hon'ble A. Mackenzie, when introducing the Bill into the Council, pointed out in a lengthy speech the two distinct ends it had in view: first, to strengthen the hands of the zamindars in respect of rents really due and the execution of decrees actually held; and second, it attempts to strengthen the position of the cultivating ryot and to place his tenant right upon a sound and definite basis for the future. We, remarks the writer, see no convenience derived by the zamindar from this Bill, for he may wait a month and get his money. It is only when the tenant objects to enhancement, or to the correctness of the survey, or some other difficulty is placed in the way, that a delay occurs; otherwise the Moonsif decides the suit within a month on the production by the landlord of a pucca kabulyat or some substantial proof as to the rent being due. The proposed Bill does not deal with enhancement of rent, but provides for the institution of a regular suit in case of any difficulty as the above-mentioned arising. In fact the gain to the zamindar as a matter of convenience by the Bill is very trifling, whilst the tenant suffers, because it provides for the payment of rent within one year, thereby compelling the zamindar to be harsh and peremptory; whereas formerly, in cases of drought, &c., when the tenant could not pay his rent regularly for two years or so, the landlord would realize it at intervals extending over, perhaps, three years. By this Bill he can no longer do so, even if he wishes to be compassionate and considerate towards his tenant. If, then, the zamindar is thus prevented from exercising a good feeling towards his ryot, the design of the legislators to secure a right of occupancy for the tenant must necessarily fail. The zamindar may, if offended with his tenant, sell off his ryot's right of occupancy in failure of payment of rent, and buy it for himself. The tenant is now able to enjoy such a right through the favor of his landlord, but if the zamindar takes a dislike, what becomes of this right of occupancy? The law about to be made will thus make the path of the zamindar easy; one or two seasons of drought will effect his purpose. Further, as to the provision of summary suits for a year's rent at the rate which the zamindar has been receiving, we wish to ask how this rate is to be proved or accepted as evidence in deciding the suit. The gomashta's books and papers will not always answer, for there is scarcely a judicial officer who will venture to decide a case like this on such evidence. In the second place, as to the provision giving power of transfer by the tenant of his occupancy right, we say that the tenant will entirely benefit thereby, whatever may be the advantage to the zamindar. We have continually and strenuously, since the foundation of this paper, advocated the possession of such a positive right in the soil by the tenant, and would only wish to see our legislators bold enough to give the tenant a complete and permanent interest, nothing less than which will satisfy him. We quite agree with Mr. Mackenzie's remarks as to the general need of the country for agricultural improvement, and that the zamindars, who have been converted into mere annuitants, do not care to effect this, and that the ryot, if granted a permanent right in the soil he cultivates, would carry out all such improvements. Our remarks in the Som Prakásha of the 18th August 1862 and of the 15th June 1863 would serve to show the opinions we even then held as to granting the ryot a permanent and independent interest in the soil. Lord Cornwallis omitted this, because, in making the permanent settlement, he had at the time in view only the realization of Government revenue. He thought that when the zamindars prospered, they too would naturally promote the interests of their tenants and dependants, so that he seemed to rely entirely on the purity of mind of the landholders, and never doubting their integrity made no provision for a lapse into bad behaviour. Hence have arisen all the existing perplexities between landlord and tenant, which no law made since the perpetual settlement has been able to remove, some enactments being favourable to the tenants and others to the Thus Act X of 1859 came under the former category, by which everything was made convenient for the tenant. Government however, who too is a zamindar, should look with equal eyes on all alike. We may be asked as to what would be the best and easiest plan for the zamindar to collect his rents, since Mr. Mackenzie's Bill is not propitious to the landlord. Now, there are three parties in these rent matters-Government, the landlord, and the tenant. The first of these must have the rent paid in by sunset of a certain day, which if not done the zamindar's sun must set, though when he wants to get in his rent he must wait for fourteen days and then realize it after much trouble and anxiety. These three parties should be regulated by the same rule and enjoy equal and not preferential advantages. This could be effected in the following manner. Let Government make the zamindar a middleman, entering into a permanent settlement with the ryot. As Government can put up to auction an estate if the rent is not paid by sunset of a certain day, let the zamindar too have the same power of selling in the collectorate the

permanent interest of his tenant on failure too of the above stipulation. Let the Bengali months of Magh and Cheyt be fixed as the months for sale for Government and zamindar; because in Paus and Magh ryots are busy getting in their crops and can easily pay, and not have to borrow on high interest. Let the four Government annual sales be done away with. This arrangement will be very convenient for all parties. Nine months' rent will thus be paid in Magh (the ryot's crop month), and the remaining three months in Cheyt. The ryot experiences great difficulty in paying his rent in Ashwin or the rainy months, and is thrown into the clutches of the money-lender for loans. Let Government also fix these two months of Magh and Cheut for the payment of the Government revenue by the zamindars, who will thereafter have no cause for complaint. Again, it may be urged that the rent and rent-roll and date of payment of revenue, &c., by zamindars are all fixed and recorded in the Collectorate, so that there can be no uncertainty; and it is well known when, and under what circumstances, a defaulting zamindar's estate can or will be put up to auction, but not so of a tenant whose relation. &c., to his zamindar is uncertain. To this we would reply that if there be a permanent settlement between the landlord and his tenant the pattah and kabulyat will settle everything satisfactorily when arrears fall due. We would, in conclusion, entreat Mr. Eden not to pass the present Rent Bill into law in a hurry, but consider well all we have had to say on the subject. Bengal's prosperity depends on it. We know Mr. Eden will not go to extremes, but steer the safe and middle course. Mr. Mackenzie is to be congratulated for having eulogized the work done by our hard-worked but ill paid University educated moonsifs.

SANGBAD PRABHAKARA, January 13th, 1879. 29. The Sangbád Prabhákara hopes that there will not be the same indiscrimination exhibited in the distribution of tickets of admission to the present durbár

as there was during the one held last year, when worthy persons were refused and unworthy ones succeeded in procuring tickets. We trust better arrangements will be made on the present occasion, and that the Bábu clerks in the Military Secretary's office be prevented from doing as they like in this matter. Invitations sent by post should be posted so as to allow parties to be present in time. The plan of the durbár held in Calcutta on the 1st January 1877 should be adopted, by appointing a respectable person of each class of the community to select such worthy persons of his own class who may be invited to the durbár. The present durbár should be held in the maidan near the fort, so as to admit of every invited guest seeing the whole of the ceremony, which many persons were prevented from doing on the last occasion when the crowd was so great in Government House. It does not do for persons to be kept waiting for two or three hours to no purpose. We beg Lord Lytton will see to this.

BRHAR BANDHU, January 15th, 1879. 30. The Behár Bandhu says that the police are committing much injustice and oppression in the Behar subdivision by laying hold of a number of coolies for the buildings which are in the course of erection there. About one-half of the number of labourers receive wages and the other half have to work without pay, so that these latter, on returning home to their families, receive no little scoldings and abuse for coming away empty-handed.

BREAR BANDEU.

31. The Behár Bandhu observes that the opium cultivators are in great anxiety and distress, because somehow or other a kind of insect has attacked the poppy plants in the Behar sub-division. As Government derives an immense revenue from opium, it should take some measures whereby the cultivation of this crop may be profitable both to itself and to the ryots.

EDUCATION.

There is no doubt, remarks the Grámvártá Prakáshiká, that Sir 32. Ashley Eden has the good of this province at Sir Ashley Eden's efforts for the good heart from the many efforts he has been and is still making for the above. Very recently he has determined to purchase the Bishop's College and convert it into a training Public Works shop and manufactory. We rejoice at this, and also at the valuable aid given by Messrs. Mackenzie and Croft to the project. Much good will result should also the views of Babu Harimohan Mukerji be carried out. If the Bengalis but take to this department of instruction, as they have done to the other, both they and this province and country will derive much When this institution gets on well there will be no need of importing articles of English manufacture. Mr. Eden has, by this act of his, again drawn towards himself the love and confidence of the natives.

PRAKASHIKA, January 11th, 1879.

FAMINE.

People cannot sleep or rest with the thought and anxiety, says the Murshidábád Pratinidhi, of the tightness of Tightness of the market for rice and the rice market. How are the poor to exist food-grains due to exportation. is the question? The ashu crop produce has

MURSHIDABAD PRATINIDHI, January 10th, 1879.

been gone through and consumed, and the price of this rice, which remained steadily high throughout, is now increasing. The same remark will apply to the winter crop, so that the present year will be a fearful one. There have been really good crops everywhere, and yet the price of rice has not declined. It makes one's head swing to hear the market rates, and it is now even difficult to get rice at ten or twelve seers to the rupee. We cannot account for this steadiness in high ruling prices. It may be said that the population has greatly increased. That is true, yet the land under cultivation has been vastly extended in proportion. We arrive, then, at the conclusion that exportation is the cause, and until this is stopped prices of foodgrains and edibles will not decline. We postpone further remarks to a future issue.

The Murshidábád Pratinidhi publishes the following letter of an anonymous correspondent, with whose views A correspondent's views as to the the editor does not, however, agree.

tightness of prices and scarcity of food. enormous difference in the rates at which rice was selling in days long gone by, when it could be had at 1 and 11 maunds for the rupee, and that at which it is now procurable, viz., at 11 and 12 seers, cannot be attributed to exportation alone. In the present times education is freely given to all, to high and low castes, without distinction, and schools are to be seen existing and springing up everywhere. Formerly education was a rare commodity and but sparingly given, if it at all was, to pupils of low caste. The peasant's son now receives a good education and becomes a Moonsif; his parents will think it beneath their position to go to the market with baskets on their heads and dispose of their rice as they were wont to do. No, they would prefer selling their stock at home to the traders. Will not this alone suffice to send up the price of rice? Again the peasants. knowing that rice is scarce, fix their own prices. How can exportation be then set down as the cause of tightness when we can buy thousands of maunds if we choose. If it did make rice so very precious and valuable a commodity we could not procure it at all.

MURSHIDABAD PRATINIDHI.

Accounts of the Statesman's alarms as to inpending famine not to be relied on

The Samáchára Chandriká does not credit the alarm raised by the Statesman as to the cause of the influx into Calcutta of men, women and children from Pabna, Faridpore, and Backergung in Eastern

SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA, January 10th, 1879.

Bengal. We believe that these people have come for the annual bathing ceremony in Ganga Sagar. However, there is the fact that we are encountering distress throughout the year. People were crying out at having to pay Rs. 5 and Rs. 6 per maund of rice during the famine of 1272 B. S., when many lives were lost from want of food. Now we have been paying the same rates for the past two or three years successively. Lord Northbrook, during whose administration these famines began, did much good for the country by stopping exportation and had it proclaimed in the bazaars that no shapkeeper was to sell rice at a rate above Rs. 2-8 per maund. The rice-sellers and traders at once lowered their prices. When he left the country the prices at once rose. We hear that there have been full crops this year, yet the rates have not fallen. New rice is now selling in Calcutta at Rs. 4 and Rs. 4-8 per maund. Lord Lytton should direct his attention to this matter.

AMVARTA PRAKA-SHIKA. January 11th, 1879.

36. Referring to the dreadful mortality in the Cashmere famine, the Grámvártá Prakáshiká says that there are Free trade not a preventive for people who would ascribe the calamity to the non-existence of free trade in that country. How comes it then that so great a number of deaths has occurred in provinces where free trade principles are current? The fact of the matter is that whilst the sources of income have diminished, prices of articles have risen considerably. People are unable to purchase food grains selling at such high rates.

LOCAL.

SANJIVANI, January 7th, 1879.

The Sanjívaní appeals to the rich zamindars, to Rájá Harishchandra and Chaudhurání Tárámoní in particular, to erect The zamindars urged to erect a public Town Hall at Nasirabad. a Town Hall with a library for public meetings at Nasirabád, where people from various places and districts also may meet for discussing public topics and finding pabulum for their minds in the shape of books and papers for perusal. The Rájá and the Chaudhurání have already done much for the public good and not stinted money for the poor. Town Hall would serve to perpetuate their memory.

SAMJIVANI.

The Sanjivani notices a recent donation of Rs. 5,000 by Rájá Liberality of Rájá Harishchandra of Harishchandra of Mymensingh for a charitable Mymensingh. dispensary, scholarships and famine purposes. The Rájá has besides this made several other donations from time to time, one of Rs. 45,000 towards the Albert Temple of Science. We would propose to the Rájá to erect a suitable building in this town, wherein public meetings could be held. The want of such a building has been long felt, and the Rájá, by supplying such a desideratum, would secure for himself a permanent memorial of his many public, benevolent and good acts.

EDUCATION GAZETTE, January 10th, 1879.

Satiprasad Sen, a correspondent, writing without date from Somra to the Education Gazette, brings to public The liberality of the Zamindar of notice the munificence of Shirpad Purnananda Somra. Ashram Dandi Goswami and his grant of five

cottahs of land for the school at that place. Last year he did the same thing for a post office. We would take upon ourselves here to make a request to the zamindar that he permits the tenants near whose holdings there be any waste lands or tanks to rent these at a lower rate than the prevailing one. The village will be greatly improved thereby, not only by the conversion of the waste into arable lands, but also by securing good drinking water.

MURSHIDABAD PATRIKA, January 10th, 1879.

High-handed dealings of the avaricious rice-traders.

.40. Importations of rice to the Khagra market, says the Murshidabad Patrika, have ceased in consequence of the mahajans intercepting the bullock-loads of that commodity on the way, and after doing

so selling the rice themselves in the bazaar. Heaps of rice are thus seen stored up in the shops of the traders in Khagra, and if people wish to purchase some their offers are declined on the ground that the whole has already been sold, but not removed by the purchaser. In this way it will be difficult to get rice at two or four seer seven to the rupee. When times of extreme distress arrive and people are dying off, these very mahajans will enrich themselves at once with the money and property of the people. This may be termed a kind of dacoity. The officials here should be able to put a stop to this state of affairs.

41. The Bharat Mihir, in its local columns, expresses a wish to see

a reformation and improvement in the Tangail Municipality under the regime of Babu Brajakanta Raya. At present the existence

of a municipality here is known by nothing else but the collection of taxes by oppressing the poor. The municipal income is spent on the police and the pay of a few favoured individuals. The village roads, ghâts, and janyle are not altered, but remain in the same bad condition as hitherto.

Complaints about the Tangail Mu-

nicipality.

42. The Bhárat Mihir says that no one objects to the junction of the Hosseinpur Moonsif's court with the sub-

the Hosseinpur Moonsif's court with the subdivision of Kishorganj. There is only a difference of opinion as to where the two courts should be located. For them to be united would be beneficial and convenient to all parties. Let the inhabitants of both these places join together and select and agree upon the locality and then petition the Magistrate on the subject.

43. An anonymous correspondent of the Bhárat Mihir, writing without date from Pabna, states that the

Road Cess Committee are showing signs of activity in the construction of village roads. Residents of villages have been called upon to state where such roads are required. Tigers have made their appearance; one of these swam across the *Ichhamati* and attacked a carter a few days ago. The Municipal Committee are busy having the jangles cleared. We trust they will after finishing this work look to the drainage. Chamárs (tanners) reside along the sides of the road leading from the thanna to the cutcherry. Skins are left to soak, and people passing by suffer from the smell coming from the moist hides. It was said that policemen, darogahs and inspectors were not to be employed in places where their family residences were. Almost all the darogahs of Pabna belong to the place; only one has been transferred.

44. The Pratikara complains of the unseasonable times at which the

Khágra main drain is opened out. The blocking up of the water therein takes away from the sanitation of the place and injures the health of the people. At present when this main drain is opened out the filthy water falls into the river and interferes with the bathing of the people there, as it makes the water of the river impure, whence also the drinking water supply is obtained. This drain should be opened out during the night so as to allow of all its impure water passing off by dawn, when it could be closed. If the executive engineers, in whose hands this work lies, cannot manage things better the Magistrate should look after it, or depute some one else to do so. The cold weather has set in, and, though appreciated by Europeans, brings with it all manner of sickness and com-

plaints to the natives.

45. The Grámvártá Prakashiká publishes the following letter from some shop-keepers in Comercolly: "Fires are on the increase and are almost of daily

BHARAT MIRIR, January 10th, 1879.

BHARAT MIHIR.

BHARAT MIHIR.

PRATIKARA, January 10th, 1879.

GRAMVARTA PEAKASHIKA, January 11th, 1879.

occurrence. Many have lost their all and are besides entangled in debt. The majority of these conflagrations are in markets. Shop-keepers are afraid to keep a large stock in thatched houses, hence high rates of articles prevail here. Shops in the market should be roofed with burnt tiles or zinc instead of thatch. The huts are so closely packed that it is difficult to save one's life. Many lives have also been lost in these recurring fires. We beg the Kushtia Magistrate to pass orders that the Comercolly market huts be roofed with tiles or zinc on the model of Kushtia, Pabna, and Rajshahye, &c."

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA, January 11th, 1879.

A peripatetic correspondent writing to the Grámvártá Pra-Accounts of a peripatetic correspondent from Samudragarh Calná, under date
the 5th ultimo save that the the 5th ultimo, says that the new Post Office being constructed at Samudragarh will, though pleasantly situated, be inconvenient for the people of Jálidángá, Kanchantalá, Kámálpur, Mahisura, &c. It should be more centrically located. The want of a good road for three miles from Samudragarh to Nadia is much felt; postal communications, too, are much retarded. Government realizes the road cess, house and license taxes from the poor, but keeps them without good roads. The road above alluded to may easily be constructed out of the accumulated ferry funds of Bardwan and Nadia. The Government aided school in Samudragarh is in a very bad state, and does not promise to last long if its Secretary is lax in looking after its interest. The cold in these parts is at 60 degrees, but malarial attacks continue as bad as ever. Tigers infest the place and carry away the cattle of the peasants. What is to be done when Government has thought fit to deprive people of fire-arms.

SADHABANI, January 12th, 1879.

The Sadharani, in its local mofussil columns, complains of the prisoners in the Nadia jail, for the most part Treatment of prisoners in the Nadia confined for theft, who are not allowed rest even

on Sundays. Is there no one to look after the jail here?

SADHABANI.

48. Complaints are sent to this paper of the constant changes made in the Rangpur Post Offices. The Govindaganj Great inconvenience caused by the abolition of the Govindaganj and Bagura postal line. and Bagura postal line has been abolished so that letters which took six hours to arrive do not now come to hand till three days. Many think that the above line has been done away with to save the postal inspectors the trouble of walking, as they would have to do. We hope the proper authorities will remedy this state of things.

SOM PRAKABHA, January 13th, 1878.

The Santipur correspondent, writing without date from that place and referring to the winter tour of Mr. Taylor, Accounts from Santipur. the very efficient Magistrate of the Nadia district, is glad to remark that this gentleman is not a sporting character, for these winter tours engaged the officials in more shooting, &c., than real work. The Deputy Magistrate lately referred a large number of appeals presented to him against the license tax assessments to the Sub-Deputy Babu at Ránághát. Now this is very hard on the poor appellants. The Sub-Deputy should instead have removed to Santipur to decide these appeals. The weavers here are about petitioning the Lieutenant-Governor against the license tax. A petition has been presented against the head constable Babus of the municipality; we trust that the oppression of these men will be punished and stopped. There is a regular flow of appeals at Ránághát against the tax, and the petty traders are raising the price of their wares and goods, and in fact have banded themselves together to maintain such prices. The import of straw, hay, treacle and sugar has stopped on account of the oppression of the municipal officers who seize and detain carts for their license tickets. We beg the Babu Chairman to look to this, as the people here are suffering much inconvenience from this stoppage.

MISCELLANEOUS.

of Bombay manufactures of dhooties from that place are not so good and clean as those of English make, and therefore do not find a ready and extensive sale in this market. The chaddars (or outer sheet coverings) are, however, in much demand. If the prices of the latter were reduced, they would take the place of American sheeting and much profit would accrue to the mill proprietors. We further hear that the Bombay manufacturers refuse to weave cloth from American cotton, as that is not an Indian staple, and would therefore not benefit this country. For our part we think it advisable to import American cotton seed and grow it here, where the soil is so favourable to cotton plantation.

GRANVARTA PRASHAIRA, January 11th, 1879.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

Bengali Thanslator's Office, The 18th January 1879.

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